

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Serial No. 09/723,868
Docket No. FANEUF 00.02
Amendment E

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel claims 23-25. Please amend claims 1, 2, 10, 11, 12, 21 and 22, as shown below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An apparatus for holding a fish, comprising:
a molded plastic clip having ~~two or more opposing protrusions~~ first and second arms coupled to and rotatable about a spacer, the first and second arms having first and second protrusions respectively adjacent their distal ends moveable between a first position and a second position, the distal ends of the first and second arms being ~~protrusions~~ urged towards one another by a biasing member to create a gripping force between the first and second protrusions, in the first position, the gripping force capable of holding a fish by a lip without punching a hole in the fish, a third protrusion extending from the spacer for preventing a fish from being inserted too far onto the clip, and a ledge spaced from the spacer for restricting movement of the biasing member; and

a length of rope having a loop formed at a first end, the loop securing the rope to the clip, the loop capable of exerting a force on the biasing member thereby increasing the gripping force.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first, second and third arms, the first and second protrusions and the biasing member are molded as one piece.

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rope is a braided hollow polypropylene.

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.
130 W. CUSHING ST.
TUCSON, AZ 85701
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Serial No. 09/723,868
Docket No. FANEUF 00.02
Amendment E

Claim 5 (original): The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the loop is formed by inserting the first end of the rope inside the hollow rope a spaced distance from the first end.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (previously amended): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rope comprises a second end, the second end forming a loop to assist in holding the rope.

Claim 8 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rope comprises a second end, the second end comprising a marker for indicating the weight of an attached fish.

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first and second protrusions are angled towards the biasing member.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first and second protrusions further comprise a plurality of grooves to assist in the holding of the fish.

Claim 12 (currently amended): An apparatus for holding a fish, comprising:

a clip formed of two or more molded plastic elongated rigid members, the rigid members having a first end and a second end, the rigid members each having a gripping portion at the first end for holding a fish by a lip without punching a hole in the fish, the rigid members rotatable about a spacer located between the first ends and the second ends, a biasing member coupled to the rigid members urging the second ends to move away from one another and the first ends to move towards one another, a protrusion extending from the spacer for preventing a fish from being inserted too far onto the clip, and a ledge spaced from the spacer for restricting movement of the biasing member; and

a length of rope coupled to the biasing member, the rope capable of exerting a force on

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.
130 W. CUSHING ST.
TUCSON, AZ 85701
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Serial No. 09/723,868
Docket No. FANEUF 00.02
Amendment E

the biasing member further urging the second ends of the rigid members to move away from one another.

Claim 13 (original): The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the rigid members, the spacer, and the biasing member are molded as one piece.

Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (original): The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the rope is a braided hollow polypropylene.

Claim 16 (original): The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the rope has a loop formed at a first end of the rope, the loop coupling the rope to the clip.

Claim 17 (original): The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the loop is formed by inserting the first end of the rope inside the hollow rope a spaced distance from the first end.

Claim 18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (original): The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the rope comprises a second end, the second end forming a loop to assist in holding the rope.

Claim 20 (original): The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the rope is adapted to float on the surface of water.

Claim 21 (currently amended): An apparatus for holding a fish, comprising:

a molded plastic clip having a first member and a second member coupled to and pivotal about a spacer, a first ~~protrusions~~ protrusion disposed at a first end of the first member and a second protrusion disposed at a first end of the second member, the first and second protrusions extending towards each other and angled towards the spacer, the ~~opposing~~ first and second protrusions being moveable between a first position and a second position, a biasing member

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.
130 W. CUSHING ST.
TUCSON, AZ 85701
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Serial No. 09/723,868
Docket No. FANEUF 00.02
Amendment E

spaced from the spacer, the biasing member having a first end coupled to a second end of the first member and a second end in sliding contact with the second member, the biasing member causing the first and second protrusions to move towards each other to create a gripping force between the first and second protrusions capable of holding a fish by a lip without punching a hole in the fish; and

a third protrusion extending from the spacer for preventing a fish from being inserted too far onto the clip; and

a length of rope having a loop formed at a first end, the loop securing the rope to the clip, the loop capable of exerting a force on the biasing member thereby increasing the gripping force.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The apparatus for holding a fish of claim 21, wherein the first and second protrusions have a plurality of grooves to assist in the gripping of the fish.

Claims 23-25 (canceled)

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.

130 W. CUSHING ST.
TUCSON, AZ 85701
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567